Woman seeks film of Kennedy on day of assassination

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The Associated Press

DALLAS — Beverly Oliver-Massegee says she was about 30 feet from President Kennedy when his motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza some 31 years ago.

Back then, she was a teen-ager filming the event.

Yesterday, Oliver-Massegee asked a panel of experts to explain what happened to the film she turned over to a man she believed to be a federal agent.

She was one of many witnesses appearing before the Assassination Records Review Board, which was formed to ferret out assassination-related documents from government files and private hands.

"I'd just like an explanation as to what happened to my film and where it is," Oliver-Massegee told the five-member panel. "I'm not here to cause trouble. I'm not here to embarrass anybody. I want to know. I think I have a right to that."

About 50 people listened intently as Oliver-Massegee explained why she had no document to prove the FBI took her film Nov. 25, 1963, three days after Kennedy's assassination.

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— Beverly Oliver-Massegee
witness before Assassination Records Review Board

"I was only 17 years old, and I wasn't smart enough to ask for a receipt," she said. "This was a man representing my government. If he had asked me for my soul, I would have tried to give it to him."

Oliver-Massegee also revealed that she had a can of marijuana in her makeup kit and "would have done anything to keep them from looking" there. She said she is a born-again Christian married to a preacher, and is neither a liar nor a hoax as some have said.

Gary Mack, who has researched the assassination since 1975, suggested that the panel consider devising legislation with criminal penalties to go after people who come up with phony stories.

President Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963, as he rode in an open car on a mission to mend political fences in the Texas Democratic Party.

Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested but was killed before he could be questioned extensively. An investigative commission headed by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren decided that Oswald acted alone.

But conspiracy theories persist.

Several speakers yesterday related their theories, including one alleging a plot involving the CIA and Mafia.

David Murrah, the director of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, told panelists they might want to see thousands of documents donated to the school by Waggoner Carr, who served as Texas attorney general from 1963 to 1967.

John R. Tunheim, chief deputy attorney general of Minnesota and chairman of the review board, said the panel intends to create a complete record for the American public's inspection.